



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

DATE: July 24, 2009

MEMO CODE: TA 05-2009

SUBJECT: HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Online Application

TO: Regional and State Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has a new, user-friendly interactive online application for the HUSSC that is located on the FNS Team Nutrition website (www.teamnutrition.usda.gov). The application can be used by schools applying for any of the four HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) award levels. One version of the online, interactive application is customized for Bronze or Silver Award applicants; a second version is customized for Gold or Gold Award of Distinction applicants. Developed collaboratively with USDA’s Food and Nutrition Information Service, National Agricultural Library, this new application tool is expected to simplify and streamline the HUSSC application and review process.

Some key, new features include:

1. A *General Information* page, providing application tips and direct links to access important menu development resources and other information;
2. *Drop-down boxes* strategically placed to minimize typing;
3. “More info” *rollover bars* offering ideas for food items; and
4. A *Competitive Foods Calculator* intended to help schools determine if the foods and beverages they sell as competitive foods meet the HUSSC criteria.

The HealthierUS School Challenge initiative aims to improve the health of the nation’s children by promoting a healthier school environment via improving the quality of foods served in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, providing students with nutrition and physical education, and providing opportunities for physical activity. This user-friendly, interactive application is a tool to help them achieve these goals.

Original Signed

CYNTHIA LONG
Director
Child Nutrition Division